

**THE FOODPLANTS OF *CATAPLECTICA FARRENI* WALS.
(LEP.: EPERMENIIDAE)**

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TUTT (1902) RECORDS that the larvae of *Cataplectica farreni* Walsingham feed within the seeds of wild parsnip *Pastinaca satvia*, entering each at the base, devouring its contents and then leaving through a hole in the side, before spinning it to another seed and entering that. This refers to locations for the species in Cambridgeshire. This foodplant information is then repeated until the 1970s in texts such as Ford (1949) and Emmet (1979).

In 1975 Dr John Langmaid found the first Scottish *C. farreni*, an adult, at Muchalls, Kincardineshire (VC91), at rest on a flowerhead of hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* and he speculated whether this could be its foodplant there (Langmaid, 1976). Emmet (1988) included this possibility in the second edition of his *Field Guide* as well as in *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland (MBGBI)* (Emmet, 1991) and Godfray & Sterling (1993) referred to *P. sativa* "and perhaps other Apiaceae" in their first account of the Epermeniidae. However, in their definitive chapter on this family in *MBGBI* (Godfray & Sterling, 1996), they revert to referring only to *P. sativa*.

In Scotland *P. sativa* is found only as a casual introduction and it has never been recorded at Muchalls. Accordingly, following Langmaid's speculation, I collected some seedheads of *H. sphondylium* on 11 August 1993, overwintered them, and in mid-June 1994 a few adult *C. farreni* emerged, confirming hogweed as a natural foodplant at Muchalls. Some of the seeds had small holes in them and there was evidence of silk threads around them. The only other similar umbels which are common at Muchalls are hemlock water-dropwort *Oenanthe crocata*, which is found only along some streams by the shore, and angelica *Angelica sylvestris*, which is also restricted to damp areas. Seeds were collected from neither of these plants.

C. farreni has a dramatically disjunct distribution in Britain, recorded only from East Anglia, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and Kincardineshire. Godfray & Sterling (*op. cit.*) comment that it is "probably under-recorded" and I concur with this. Despite its continued presence at Muchalls, and many searches, adults have only been found there on three or four occasions. Hogweed is, of course, an abundant and widespread plant and it seems likely that *C. farreni* will be found elsewhere on Britain's east coast. It would also be of interest to discover whether *H. sphondylium* is used as a foodplant in East Anglia.

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The British species of *Stigmaeus* Panzer, 1804 (Hym.: Sphecidae)

This is a follow up note to one published earlier, where *Stigmaeus pendulus* was reported as new to Britain (Allen, 1987 *Stigmaeus pendulus* Panzer (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae) new to Britain. *Entomologist's Gazette* 38: 214). In that paper a key was given to the two British *Stigmaeus* species. Unfortunately, by a *lapsus*, I transposed the mesopleural character, rendering the key of limited value. By way of amendment I present a revised key here:

1. Upper part of mesopleuron strongly reticulate, so as to appear dull and not reflect light; pronotal tubercle pale yellowish-brown, at least posteriorly; male with the mesoscutum dull, shagreened (in the female more shining) *Stigmaeus solskyi* Morawitz, A.
- Upper part of mesopleuron more weakly sculptured, reflecting light between the weak rugae; pronotal tubercle nearly black; male and female with the mesoscutum shining, reflecting light strongly.....*Stigmaeus pendulus* Panzer

S. pendulus is still a rare species in Britain but has now been recorded from several of the home counties. These include another Kent record (L. Clemons) and records from Surrey (S. Miles), Middlesex (C.W. Plant), Hertfordshire (R. Uffen) (all *pers. comm.*) and Essex (Harvey & Plant, 1996, A provisional list of the bees, wasps and ants (Hymenoptera: Aculeata) of Essex. *Essex Naturalist* 13 (new series): 43-115).

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